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City Council Newsletter



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Community Court is Off to a Successful Start

Community Court launched September 2, with excellent collaboration between community social service providers and local volunteers. The program supports community members who have committed offenses or are in need of a more structured, supportive environment providing a helping hand to aid them in getting back on their feet.

Community Court provides service providers a chance to meet one-on-one with people in need. A wide range of services, including food boxes, clothing, medical, dental and vision assessments, housing, substance abuse and mental health treatment are available to participants. Program participants have come to Community Court through a variety of routes, including citations through the justice system, referrals from LTD in lieu of citations, and walk-ins who were curious or heard about the court through word-of-mouth. Participants have cleared warrants, connected with needed services and performed community service.



"Service providers have been enthusiastic to be involved and participants have been equally appreciative," says Cheryl Stone, Court Administrator. "We anticipate our first graduate will be ready on October 7th – he embraced the program and has taken advantage of all the services available to him. His mom came with him at his first appearance and signed up as a volunteer after the first week. They are both so thankful for this opportunity and the accountability of the program. Each person's story is unique, but all those involved are very happy for the connection to services and the individualized approach."

So far the program has four volunteers who assist with greeting, navigation, check-in and introductions to service providers. These volunteers have played a critical role and additional volunteers will be needed to expand the program. For more information, [check out the Community Court webpage](#).

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Community Comes Together to Build a Safer and More Welcoming Community

On September 14th, 2016 the 4th annual Hate and Bias [report](#) was released at the site of the historic Mim's House with over 40 community members and media outlets in attendance. This event highlighted incidents of hate and bias as well as the proactive work done by the city and its partners to counter them. The location was intentional and selected to acknowledge the disproportionate impact to the African American community when it comes to experiencing acts of hate and bias. African American community members are disproportionately targeted by hate and bias activity, 4 of 5 race related hate crimes were committed against African Americans.



The report is produced in accordance with City Council goal of working towards a Safer Community through a strong collaboration with the Eugene Police Department and the Human Rights and Neighborhood Involvement Office. Nine community organizations were present and spoke out in support of increasing reporting by community members since only about 1/3 of all hate and bias crimes are reported nationally according to the Department of Justice. Partner organizations included the NAACP Eugene-Springfield, TransPonder, League of Latin American Citizens (LULAC), Grupo Latino Acción Directa of Lane County (GLAD), Community Alliance of Lane County

(CALC), Blacks in Government (BIG), Oregon Strong Voice, Asian Pacific Islander Community Action Team (APICA) and Showing Up for Racial Justice Springfield-Eugene (SURJ). These organizations and many others in our community work each day to build a community that is welcoming and supportive of all people and to counter acts of hate and bigotry.

For Eugene to be truly safe, vibrant, and welcoming for all it is essential to not only provide support to victims of hate as it occurs but to develop and implement strategies to reduce this activity and the underlying attitudes that perpetuate it. We're excited to launch the "Be Campaign" as one strategy to build a community where people are included, empowered, engaged, safe and welcome. The "Be Campaign" is a project of the Equity and Community Consortium (ECC), a partnership between local agencies in Lane County to coordinate efforts of equity and inclusion. The campaign was formulated as a positive visioning approach to address hate, bias and discrimination. Our goals are to share positive, diverse images with a message that encourages inclusivity and respect, to increase community conversation about equity and to build a welcoming environment.

We invite you to join us for the launch of the Be Campaign at the October First Friday Communities of Color Networking Event. This even will take place on October 7th from 5:30pm – 7:00pm at the Campbell Community Center. This event will also feature a chance to meet and get involved with some of the organizations who work to make Eugene safer and more inclusive. For more information about this event or City efforts to track and report on hate and bias activity contact [Jennifer Lleras Van Der Haeghen](#), Human Rights and Equity Analyst, at 541-682-5619.

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Eugene Launches Vision Zero Transportation Safety Initiative

The City of Eugene has launched the Vision Zero, transportation safety effort. In Eugene, every year, an average of 6 people are killed and 34 people experience life changing injuries due to crashes on Eugene's streets. In November 2015, Eugene City Council adopted a Vision Zero Resolution that set as official policy the vision zero goal that no loss of life or serious injury on Eugene's transportation system is acceptable. Over the next year, a



group of leaders from the City and community will be working together on a Task Force to create a Vision Zero Action Plan. The Action Plan will lay out how the City, other agencies and community organizations will focus on eliminating deaths and life changing injuries on Eugene streets.

The City invites you to an event to celebrate the beginning of this important effort. Please join City and community leaders to launch Vision Zero as a community on National Walk + Bike to School Day. This community kick-off event will be held the morning of Wednesday, October 5th from 7:20 – 8:30 am. The City is partnering with Better Eugene-Springfield Transit and Eugene Safe Routes to School to celebrate the beginning of Vision Zero in Eugene and raise awareness around the importance of transportation safety near schools. City staff and volunteers will be meeting at Albertsons on Hilyard & 30th to walk with students and their families over to Camas Ridge Elementary School. The walking school bus will leave Albertsons at 7:30am. Speeches will begin behind Camas Ridge at 8:00 am.

For more information on Vision Zero, go to <https://www.eugene-or.gov/3239/Vision-Zero> or contact [Larisa Varela](#), Associate Transportation Planner, at (541)682-6887.

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Links to Eugene City Council Resources

[Mayor & City Council Webpage](#)



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